

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a computer system that is network connectable along with one or more other computer systems to a network, a method for determining if an attachment is to be deleted in response to a deletion command requesting deletion of a corresponding electronic message, the method comprising:

an act of receiving an electronic message, the electronic message including:

an act of receiving a message body portion of an electronic message;

an act of receiving an attachment attached to the message body, the attachment storing attachment data associated with the electronic message, the attachment including; and

a coupling field indicating if the attachment data message is coupled to or decoupled from the electronic message body, coupling to the message body indicating that the attachment data is to be deleted along with the message body when the message body is deleted, decoupling from the message body indicating that the attachment data is to be retained when the electronic message is deleted;
and

a data field storing attachment data;

an act of receiving a delete command requesting deletion of the electronic message;

an act of deleting the electronic message body in response to and in accordance with the received delete command;

an act of automatically referring to the coupling field included in the electronic message attachment in response to the delete command to determine if the attachment data is to be deleted along with the electronic message body or if the attachment data is to be retained in response to receiving the delete command based on whether the attachment data is coupled to or decoupled from the message body respectively; and

an act of processing the attachment data in accordance with the indication in the coupling field included in the electronic message based on the reference to the coupling field included in the electronic message.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of receiving a ~~body portion of~~ an electronic message comprises an act of receiving a ~~body portion of an~~ electronic message ~~wherein the body portion is included in an electronic message~~ selected from among an electronic mail message, an instant message, a fax message, a news group posting, a voice message, and a blog entry.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of receiving a ~~body portion of an~~ electronic message comprises an act of receiving an ~~body portion of an~~ ~~electronic message, the electronic message being defined in accordance with one or more extension schemas.~~

Claim 4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the ~~act of receiving~~ an attachment ~~associated with~~ attached to the electronic message ~~comprises an act of receiving~~ ~~an attachment that~~ includes an attachment metadata field, the attachment metadata field storing message related data associated with the electronic message such that if the electronic message is deleted message related data associated the electronic message can nonetheless be returned in response to a query.

Claim 6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
an act of storing the ~~electronic message and the body portion~~ in a message silo of a database, the ~~electronic message and body portion~~ being stored along with one or more other message items defined in accordance with a message schema;
an act of storing the attachment in a document silo of the database; and

an act of maintaining a link between the attachment in the document silo and the electronic message in the message silo such that the message body and the attachment remain related as electronic message data even though they are stored in different silos.

8. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of receiving a delete command requesting deletion of the electronic message comprises an act of receiving a delete command that originated at a user message application.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of deleting the electronic message in accordance with the received delete command comprises an act of deleting the ~~electronic-message and the body portion~~ from a message silo of a database.

Claim 10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of referring to the coupling field included in the electronic message attachment to determine if the attachment is to be deleted comprises an act of referring to the coupling field to determining that the attachment is ~~not to be deleted to be retained in response to the delete command.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of referring to the coupling data field included in the electronic message attachment to determine if the attachment is to be deleted comprises an act of referring to the coupling field to determining that the attachment is to be deleted along with the message body in response to the delete command.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 11, ~~further comprising~~ wherein:

the act of deleting the message body in response to and in accordance with the received delete command comprise an act of deleting the message body from a message silo of a database in response to the delete command; and

the act of processing the attachment data in accordance with the indication in the coupling field of the electronic message based on the reference to the coupling field comprises an act of deleting-retaining the attachment from in a document silo of a-the database based on the reference to the coupling field.

14. (Currently Amended) In a computer system that is network connectable along with one or more other computer systems to a network, a method for identifying an attachment in response to a message related query, the method comprising:

an act of receiving an electronic message, the electronic message including:

a message body;

an attachment attached to the message body, the attachment storing attachment data associated with the electronic message; and

a coupling field indicating that the attachment data is decoupled from the message body, decoupling from the message body indicating that the attachment data is to be retained when the electronic message is deleted;

an act of receiving a delete command to delete the electronic message;

in response to the delete command:

an act of deleting the message body;

an act of retaining the attachment based on the indication in the coupling field included in the electronic message;;

an act of receiving a query for message related data that satisfies query criteria subsequent to deletion of the message body;

an act of identifying an ~~the retained~~ attachment as message related data that satisfies the query criteria not withstanding that an ~~electronic~~ the message body associated with the attachment was deleted prior to receiving the query; and

an act of returning at least a link to the attachment in response to the query.

15. (Original) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the act of receiving a query for message related data that satisfies query criteria comprises an act of receiving a query that originated at a user message application.

Claims 16-17. (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the act of returning at least a link to the attachment in response to the query comprises an act of returning a link that can be represented by an icon or hyperlink at a user message application.

19. (Original) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the act of returning at least a link to the attachment in response to the query comprises an act of returning the attachment in response to the query.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for use in a computer system that is network connectable along with one or more other computer systems to a network, the computer program product for ~~implementing a method for~~ determining if an attachment is to be deleted in response to a deletion command requesting deletion of a corresponding electronic message, the computer program product comprising one or more physical storage media having stored thereon computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the computer system to perform the following:

receive an electronic message, the electronic message including

~~receive a message body portion of an electronic message;~~

~~receive an attachment attached to the message body, the attachment storing attachment data associated with the electronic message, the attachment including;~~ and

a coupling field indicating if the attachment data message is coupled to or decoupled from the electronic message body, coupling to the message body indicating that the attachment data is to be deleted along with the message body when the message body is deleted, decoupling from the message body indicating that the attachment data is to be retained when the electronic message is deleted; and

~~a data field storing attachment data;~~

receive a delete command requesting deletion of the electronic message;

delete the ~~electronic-message body in response to~~ and in accordance with the received delete command; and

refer to the coupling field included in the attachment to determine if the attachment data is to be deleted along with the ~~electronic-message body or if the attachment data is to be retained in response to receiving the delete command~~ based on whether the attachment data is coupled to or decoupled from the message body in response to receiving the delete command.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for use in a computer system that is network connectable along with one or more other computer systems to a network, the computer program product for ~~implementing a method for~~ identifying an attachment in response to a message related query, the computer program product comprising one or more physical storage media having stored thereon computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the computer system to perform the following:

receive an electronic message, the electronic message including:

a message body;

an attachment attached to the message body, the attachment storing attachment data associated with the electronic message; and

a coupling field indicating that the attachment data is decoupled from the message body, decoupling from the message body indicating that the attachment data is to be retained when the electronic message is deleted;

receive a delete command to delete the electronic message;

in response to the delete command;

delete the message body;

retain the attachment;

receive a query for message related data that satisfies query criteria subsequent to deletion of the message body;

identify ~~an-the~~ attachment as message related data that satisfies the query criteria not withstanding that ~~an-electronic the message body associated with the attachment~~ was deleted prior to receiving the query; and

return at least a link to the attachment in response to the query.

22. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the coupling field being included in the electronic message comprises the couple field being included in the attachment